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OCT 19 2007

Application No. 10826475 (Docket: CNTR.2223)
37 CFR 1.111 Amendment dated 10/19/2007
Reply to Office Action of 10/17/2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the section entitled "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" in its entirety and substitute the following section therefor:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an apparatus and method for performing cryptographic operations on a plurality of input data blocks within a microprocessor, where the size cryptographic key that is employed is programmable. In one embodiment, an apparatus for performing cryptographic operations is provided. The apparatus includes a cryptographic instruction fetch logic and execution logic. The fetch logic is disposed within a microprocessor, and receives a cryptographic instruction is received by a microprocessor as part of an instruction flow executing on the microprocessor. The cryptographic instruction prescribes one of the cryptographic operations, and also one of a plurality of cryptographic key sizes. The execution logic disposed within the microprocessor and is operatively coupled to the cryptographic instruction. The execution logic executes the one of the cryptographic operations. The execution logic has a cryptographic key size controller that employs the one of a plurality of cryptographic key sizes during execution of the one of the cryptographic operations.